

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-16, 20, 21, 30-37, and 39-59 are pending in the application. The Examiner's indication that claims 11-15 are allowed and that claims 6, 8, 19, 21, 38, and 40 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 6, 19, and 38 are canceled by this Amendment. Claims 41-59 are added by this Amendment.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for granting the telephone interviews on August 26, 2004 with representative Richard L. Kaiser. In those interviews, the cited Lazarchik, et al. reference was discussed in light of the language of independent claim 1. No agreement was reached regarding the rejection of claim 1. However, the Examiner indicated that if the allowable dependent claims were rewritten in independent form, he would allow the addition of new dependent claims mirroring dependent claims already in the application.

The Applicants again note that no initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application on February 26, 2002 was forwarded with the current Office action. The Applicants respectfully request a copy of the initialed Information Disclosure Statement for their records.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 7, 16, 20, 30, 32-33, 36, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lazarchik, et al. (US 5,201,253). The Examiner has also rejected claims 5, 9-10, 31, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lazarchik, et al.

The Applicants have amended the claims to put the application into condition for allowance. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 6. Therefore, independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 30, and 31 are allowable.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 19. Therefore, independent claim 16, and dependent claims 20, 21, and 32-35 are allowable. Dependent claims 20 and 21 have also been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

Independent claim 36 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 38. Therefore, independent claim 36, and dependent claims 37, 39, and 40 are allowable.

New independent claim 41 is allowable dependent claim 8 rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 42-50 are the same as dependent claims 2-6, 9, 10, 30, and 31, respectively, except that claim 49 further recites that the second location on the second edge is between the top and bottom surfaces. No new matter has been added. Therefore, independent claim 41, and dependent claims 42-50 are allowable.

New independent claim 51 is allowable dependent claim 21 rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 52-56 are the same as dependent claims 19 and 32-35, respectively, except that claim 54 further recites that the second location on the second edge is between the top and bottom surfaces. No new matter has been added. Therefore, independent claim 51, and dependent claims 52-56 are allowable.

New independent claim 57 is allowable dependent claim 40 rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 58 and 59 are the same as dependent claims 37 and 38, respectively. No new matter has been added. Therefore, independent claim 57, and dependent claims 58 and 59 are allowable.

For the reasons set forth above, the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of the Amendment and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-10, 16, 20, 21, 30-37, and 39-59, in addition to the previous allowance of claims 11-15, are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard L. Kaiser".

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